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ORDER ON THE REORGANIZATION OF OBLASTS IN YUGOSLAVIA

The Second Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia has made the following ruling on the reorganization of oblasts, effective 15 May 1950:

The oblast administrations have not always operated as was originally intended. They have not been sufficiently directed toward strengthening the srez administrations as much as possible and fitting them for more independent action on all basic problems. The srez administrations have even been weakened by having personnel withdrawn from them for the oblasts, and by unnecessarily transferring much of their work to the oblasts. All this has weakened and limited the initiative of the srez party committees and srez people's councils.

One of the primary reasons for this condition was that the position of the oblast people's councils in the state administration was not sufficiently defined when their organization and jurisdiction were first set up. As a result, the oblast were able to depart substantially from their own specific mission, functionally, organizationally, and jurisdictionally. They have transformed themselves into an imitation of the republic governments, with the same planning, regulatory, and operational functions but without the increased machinery needed for executing these functions. Often, responsibilities have been turned over to the oblast people's councils which they have not been in a position to carry out; they have sometimes hindered normal work procedures by constituting an unnecessary administrative channel between the srez people's council and the agencies of the republic governments. An unwieldy bureaucracy is developing in certain commissions. The oblasts have taken over many srez functions and have become too active in creating their own oblast economic enterprises. The oblast people's councils have acted as a brake on the rapid solution of problems as all measures of the agencies of the republic governments have had to be channeled through the oblast people's councils.

The oblast people's councils are to be reorganized so that they do not act as a brake on the development of srez and municipal people's councils, but increase their autonomy. This does not mean that the oblast people's councils will not issue their own orders, rules, and decisions and give directives to lower government agencies. On the contrary, the oblast people's councils will develop their

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initiative in administering the local administrations in the fullest sense. But their activity as a higher agency will be directed toward strengthening the srez, city, and local people's councils. Therefore, the chief function of the commissions and other agencies of the oblast people's councils will be to give concrete help to the commissions of srez and city people's councils in solving individual problems, enforcing measures, developing operational plans for certain action and helping them supervise the execution of tasks set by the agencies of the republic governments.

A direct planning and operational liaison is to be maintained between the agencies of the republic governments and the srez people's councils, without passing through the oblast people's councils. Work which the republic governments assign is to be done through the srez and city people's councils and not through the oblast people's councils. The basic task of the oblast people's councils is to insure the proper execution of party and government policy by the srez and city people's councils. The oblast people's councils shall, however, help the srez people's councils in doing the work assigned. The government will channel work through the oblast people's councils only in cases where jurisdiction is explicitly given to the oblast.

The oblast people's councils, therefore, shall be reorganized as follows:

The executive council of the oblast people's council shall not have all the agencies that the srez people's councils have, nor are they always to correspond to the republic ministries. The executive council of the oblast people's council may have the following agencies: a planning commission, a control commission, an internal affairs commission, an agriculture and forestry commission, a commerce commission, a supply and state procurement commission, a commission for the local economy and communal affairs (which include the activities of local industry, trades, and construction), a finance commission, a local transportation commission, a commission for education and culture, a commission for public health and social welfare, and a secretariat which includes personnel and legal services. The executive council will include a commission for systematization and organization, directed by the secretary or the vice-president of the executive council, which will include a personnel secretary, a certain number of commissioners, and the commission secretary who will administer its machinery.

The individual commissions are to give concrete aid to the srez and city people's councils through instruction and supervision, proposing individual measures, preparing and working out operational plans, etc. Therefore, the various oblast commissions shall make an analysis of the work of the srez people's councils.

The plan and budget of the srez and city people's councils are not a direct part of the plan and budget of the oblast people's councils but of the republics. The oblast planning commissions shall cooperate with the republic planning commissions in working out the quotas for the srez and city people's councils and shall help the srez and city people's councils work out their plans. The oblast planning commissions shall follow the execution of the srez and city plans on the basis of data which the srez and city people's councils shall send simultaneously to the republic and oblast planning commissions. Similar relations should exist between the republic ministries and the oblast or srez commissions whenever help is necessary in drawing up plans.

As a rule, the oblast people's councils shall not administer enterprises or establishments directly. Nearly all existing enterprises and establishments are to be transferred to srez or city people's councils. The oblast people's council can have jurisdiction over an enterprise only in exceptional cases. Establishments and enterprises shall be transferred to srez or city people's councils without regard to whether, for instance, a hospital or similar establishment serves more than one city or srez. The oblast people's council has the authority to organize the work of such establishments so that they can serve several srez.

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The oblast people's councils shall exercise special care that the law is observed in the work of srez and city people's councils. As a rule, the oblast people's councils shall have second-degree jurisdiction over administrative and penal proceedings wherever possible. The oblast people's council shall have a commission for violations, directed by the commissioner for internal affairs, two other commissioners, and the head of the legal service.

Special care is to be given to the distribution of the present personnel of the oblast people's councils as a result of this reorganization. Care shall be taken that the srez people's councils receive some of the best specialist and administrative personnel.

Experience has shown that oblast supervision of mass and social organizations is not necessary. Only the oblast councils for the People's Front are to remain as a model political body without professional personnel or a staff. Similarly, oblast youth committees consisting of five to seven members with a technical staff of not more than five may be retained.

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